

**HIGHLIGHTS IN THIS REPORT**

2004 Annual Livestock Slaughter  
Farms & Land in Farms

**Louisiana Annual Livestock Slaughter**

Commercial red meat production in Louisiana during 2004 totaled 13.2 million pounds, down 13 percent from a year earlier.

There were 13,700 head of **cattle** slaughtered during 2004, down 8 percent from 2003. Average live weight per head, at 865 pounds, was down 12 pounds from the previous year. Total live weight at 11.8 million pounds was down 10 percent from a year earlier.

**Calves** slaughtered totaled 7,800 head during 2004, down 25 percent from the previous year. Live weight averaged 486 pounds per head, down 6 pounds from 2003. Total live weight was 3.78 million pounds, down 26 percent from a year earlier.

The number of **hogs** slaughtered during 2004 totaled 22,900 head, down 5 percent from the previous year. Live weight averaged 198 pounds per head, down 8 pounds from 2003. Total live weight was 4.53 million pounds, down 9 percent from a year earlier.

**Sheep** slaughtered during 2004 totaled 1,700 head, down 11 percent from 2003. Live weight per head averaged 91 pounds, up 4 pounds from a year earlier. Total live weight, at 156,000 pounds, was down 5 percent from 2003.

**United States Annual Livestock Slaughter**

**Red meat production** for the United States totaled 45.6 billion pounds in 2004, 2 percent below last year. Red meat includes beef, veal, pork, lamb and mutton. Red meat production in commercial plants totaled 45.4 billion pounds. On farm production totaled 136 million pounds.

**Beef production**, at 24.7 billion pounds, was 6 percent below the previous year. **Veal production** totaled 176 million pounds,

down 13 percent from last year, a new record low. **Pork production**, at 20.5 billion pounds, was 3 percent above last year, a new record high. **Lamb and mutton production** totaled 199 million pounds, falling 3 percent below the previous record low set a year ago.

**Commercial cattle slaughter** during 2004 totaled 32.7 million head, down 8 percent from 2003, with federal inspection comprising 98.2 percent of the total. The average live weight was 1,240 pounds, up 9 pounds from a year ago. **Steers** comprised 50.4 percent of the total federally inspected slaughter, **heifers** 32.2 percent, **dairy cows** 7.3 percent, **other cows** 8.4 percent and **bulls** 1.7 percent.

**Commercial calf slaughter** totaled 842,400 head, down 16 percent from a year ago with 97.7 percent under federal inspection. The average live weight was 330 pounds, up 12 pounds from a year earlier.

**Commercial hog slaughter** totaled 103 million head, up 3 percent from 2003 with 98.9 percent of the hogs slaughtered under federal inspection. The average live weight was up 1 pound from last year, at 267 pounds. **Barrows and gilts** comprised 96.6 percent of the total federally inspected slaughter.

**Commercial sheep and lamb slaughter**, at 2.84 million head, was down 5 percent from 2003 with 94.3 percent federally inspected. The average live weight was up 2 pounds from 2003 at 136 pounds.

There were 825 slaughtering plants under federal inspection on January 1, 2005, compared with 855 last year. Of these, 689 slaughtered at least one head of cattle during 2004, and 13 slaughtered almost 52 percent of the total cattle killed. Hogs were slaughtered at 664 plants, with 13 accounting for slightly over 58 percent of the total. Likewise, 13 of the 234 plants that slaughtered calves accounted for 83 percent of the total, and 4 of the 500 plants that slaughtered sheep or lambs in 2004 accounted for about 60 percent of the total head.

Iowa, Kansas, Nebraska and Texas accounted for almost 52 percent of the United States commercial red meat production in 2004, similar to 2003.

**2004 Louisiana Livestock Slaughter<sup>1</sup>**

Month	Cattle Slaughtered		Calves Slaughtered		Hogs Slaughtered		Sheep and Lambs Slaughtered		Red Meat Production <sup>2</sup>
	Number of Head	Average Live Weight	Number of Head	Average Live Weight	Number of Head	Average Live Weight	Number of Head	Average Live Weight	Thousand Pounds
January	1,300	863	600	498	1,900	204	100	88	1,200
February	1,300	882	500	503	2,200	222	300	119	1,300
March	1,100	861	600	512	2,400	223	200	108	1,200
April	1,100	848	500	499	1,700	199	100	80	1,000
May	1,200	812	500	472	1,700	206	100	94	1,000
June	1,000	845	800	471	1,700	194	100	82	1,000
July	1,000	855	600	480	1,500	201	200	74	1,000
August	1,000	849	800	484	1,500	196	200	79	1,000
September	1,100	824	700	475	1,600	197	100	84	1,100
October	1,200	881	700	479	1,700	202	100	70	1,100
November	1,000	936	800	478	2,300	181	100	81	1,100
December	1,100	930	600	491	2,700	159	100	82	1,100
Year <sup>3</sup>	<b>13,700</b>	<b>865</b>	<b>7,800</b>	<b>486</b>	<b>22,900</b>	<b>198</b>	<b>1,700</b>	<b>91</b>	<b>13,200</b>

<sup>1</sup>Includes slaughter in federally inspected and other slaughter plants, but excludes animals slaughtered on farms.

<sup>2</sup>Includes total beef, veal, pork and lamb and mutton, excluding farm slaughter.

<sup>3</sup>Total may not add due to rounding.

## United States Farms and Land in Farms: 2004 Summary

The number of farms in the United States in 2004 is estimated at 2.11 million, 0.6 percent fewer than in 2003. Total land in farms, at 936.6 million acres, decreased 2.25 million acres, or 0.2 percent, from 2003. The average farm size was 443 acres in 2004, an increase of 2 acres from the previous year. The decline in the number of farms and land in farms reflects a continuing consolidation in farming operations and transfers of agricultural land to competing uses.

Farm numbers declined in the 2 smallest economic sales classes and rose in the 3 largest economic sales classes. Part of the reduction in the small economic sales classes was due to normal attrition, mostly retirements. In addition, some operations transferred to larger economic sales classes by enterprise expansion. However, the majority of the changes in the economic sales classes were due to rising incomes. Many operations near the top of their economic sales class in 2003, moved into the next larger economic sales class in 2004.

### Number of Farms, Land in Farms, and Average Farm Size: United States, 2002-2004<sup>1</sup>

Selected States	Number of Farms			Land in Farms			Average Farm Size		
	2002	2003	2004	2002	2003	2004	2002	2003	2004
	-----Number-----			-----1,000 Acres-----			-----Acres-----		
Alabama	45,000	45,000	44,000	8,900	8,700	8,700	198	198	198
Arkansas	47,500	47,500	47,500	14,500	14,400	14,400	305	303	303
Georgia	49,300	49,300	49,000	10,800	10,800	10,700	219	219	218
<b>Louisiana</b>	<b>27,500</b>	<b>27,200</b>	<b>27,200</b>	<b>7,900</b>	<b>7,850</b>	<b>7,850</b>	<b>287</b>	<b>289</b>	<b>289</b>
Mississippi	42,200	42,800	42,200	11,110	11,110	11,050	263	260	262
Oklahoma	83,500	83,500	83,500	33,700	33,7100	33,700	404	404	404
Texas	229,000	229,000	229,000	130,500	130,500	130,000	570	570	568
<b>United States</b>	<b>2,135,360</b>	<b>2,126,860</b>	<b>2,113,470</b>	<b>940,300</b>	<b>938,650</b>	<b>936,600</b>	<b>440</b>	<b>441</b>	<b>443</b>

<sup>1</sup>A farm is any establishment from which \$1,000 or more of agricultural products were sold or would normally be sold during the year.

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